

June 16, 2010

Major General Charles F. Bolden, USMC (Ret.)
Administrator
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
300 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20546

Dear General Bolden:

I am writing this letter in support of the Secretary of the Air Force's request for an interagency transfer of a retired operational shuttle orbiter for preservation and display at the National Museum of the United States Air Force (NMUSAF) at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. I can think of no more fitting place to put the shuttle on permanent display and tell its story to the public. As the world's oldest and largest aerospace museum, the NMUSAF has an unsurpassed reputation for stewardship and professional display of significant aerospace artifacts. A free attraction located in America's heartland, the Museum already attracts over 1.3 million visitors a year, a number sure to increase with the addition of a shuttle on display. I'm convinced that no one will be able to do a better job of telling the shuttle's story to the American public than the US Air Force at the NMUSAF.

The story of the shuttle, and the story of our nation's space program, is a story of close collaboration between NASA and the Department of Defense. As a military aerospace museum, the NMUSAF is an ideal place to tell that story. And as the Birthplace of Aviation and the home of NASA Glenn Research Center and the world's largest military aerospace research and development center (Wright-Patterson Air Force Base), Ohio is the perfect place to house the shuttle. The NMUSAF is ideally suited to tell the public how NASA and DoD and the Air Force collaborated on the shuttle program, and continue to collaborate in aeronautics and space research, space science, space operations, and space exploration.

The State of Ohio, Dayton region, Ohio's Congressional delegation, and the Ohio Aerospace Institute strongly support the Air Force request to place a shuttle at the NMUSAF. I request that you carefully consider the many advantages of this request. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Michael L. Heil, Ph.D., P.E.
President and CEO